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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ethiopia

DATE DISTR. 1 March 1949

SUBJECT Visit of Chermakian, Czech Arms
Representative, to Addis Ababa

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A6a

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO: 11/11/68

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1.

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2. While in Addis Ababa, Chermakian stated that he was not fully informed on shipments of the arms ordered by Ethiopia, but that he believed that the larger part of the order was assembled at Gdynia, Poland, Stettin, Germany, or a Swedish port, awaiting transshipment via South Africa to Djibouti, French Somaliland.

3. Chermakian presently is acting as covert representative of a Belgian arms group. According to informants, he has stated that he is not in accord with the new Czechoslovak Government and that he was affiliating himself with the Belgian manufacturers as insurance against being cut off by the Czech interests. Chermakian received a letter from the Fabrique Nationale Belgique, enclosing an offer of 50,000 hand grenades and a large crane, with the request that he transmit the offer to the Ethiopian Government. This letter arrived in Addis Ababa after his departure and was forwarded to him in Beirut.

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4. [REDACTED] an Ethiopian Government representative has been in Czechoslovakia, inspecting and talking over material under the above-mentioned arms contract. He is reported to have rejected several items because they were in poor condition, or were obsolete.

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Comment. This representative may have been Gabre Mariam Ananti, former Imperial Treasurer, who made an extended tour of Europe recently as auditor of Ethiopian diplomatic posts. Document No. 82

Document No.

02

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/176

Date: 16/05/98 By: 02

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